Fire answers fire[9]; and through their paly flames
Each battle sees the other's umber'd face[1]:
Steed threatens steed, in high and boastful neighs
Piercing the night's dull ear *; and from the tents[3],

9 Fire answers fire:] This circumstance is also taken from Holinshed : tfe —but at their coming into the village, *fires* were made (by the English) to give light on every side, as there likewise were in the French hoste." MALONE.

[1] —the other's UMBER'D face:] Of this epithet, used by Shakspeare in his description of fires reflected by night, Mr. Pope knew the value, and has transplanted it into the Iliad on a like occasion :

" Whose *umber'd* arms by turns thick flashes send."

Umber is a brown colour. So, in As You Like It :

" And with a kind of *umber* smirch my face."

The distant visages of the soldiers would certainly appear of this hue, when beheld through the light of midnight fires.

Umber'd, however, may signify *shaded*. Thus Caxton tells us that he—*' emprysed tenprinte [Tully on Old Age] under the *umbre* and shadow of King Edward IV." Again, in an old poem called The Castell of Labour, falshood is said to act •** under the *umbre* of veiyte." STEEVENS.

Umbered certainly means here *discoloured* by the gleam of the fires. *Umber* is a dark yellow earth, brought from Umbria, in Italy, which, being mixed with water, produces such a dusky yellow colour as the gleam of fire by night gives to the countenance. Our author's profession probably furnished him with this epithet; for frohi an old manuscript play in my possession, entitled The Telltale, it appears that *umber* was used in the stage-exhibitions of his time. In that piece one of the marginal directionsis, " He *umbers* her face." MALONE.

[2] Piercing the night's DULL EAR;] Hence perhaps the following idea in Milton's L'Allegro :

" And singing startle the *dull night.*' STEEVENS.

[3] —and from the tents,] See the preparation for the battle between Palamon and Arcite, in Chaucer:

* And on the morwe, when the clay 'gan spring,
* Of horse and harneis noise and clattering,
' ' 'There was in the hostelries all abbute:~

*The fomv stedes on the golden bridei
'^Gnawinq, *wad. fast the armureres also*
•WMJile and hammer prikıng to and fro,"
&c.
-[V'..>»•-."•'•-?• •• . . , T. WARTON-
Thtfrt$l«n^ **$tfttAte:.** describinq
the^preparations for the Trojan
war;'•'''*